





PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 03327.2259-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Akihiro HIKICHI et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1771  
Application No.: 09/901,722 ) Examiner: N.L. Torres-Velazquez  
Filed: July 11, 2001 )  
For: NON-ASBESTOS FRICTION )  
MATERIAL )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

This Amendment is filed in response to the final Office Action dated October 8, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE), a request for a two-month extension of time (a one-month extension having previously been granted and paid in full), and the appropriate fees are being filed concurrently with this Amendment. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments below is respectfully requested.